



# RADIOLOGICAL HAZARD

An intentional Radiological Hazard occurs when a population is intentionally exposed to radiation through a non-nuclear mechanism. A Radiological Hazard may take the form of a radiological exposure device (RED) or a radiological dispersal device (RDD), also known as a dirty bomb. An unintentional radiological substance release may occur when radiation is accidentally discharged into the environment as the result of a nuclear power plant accident, a transportation accident, or a workplace incident.



## HAS IT HAPPENED LOCALLY?

There have been zero Radiological Hazard events in Howard County during the reviewed time period (1996-2019). There were two unintentional Radiological Hazard events during the reviewed time period.

## WHAT IS THE ONGOING RISK?

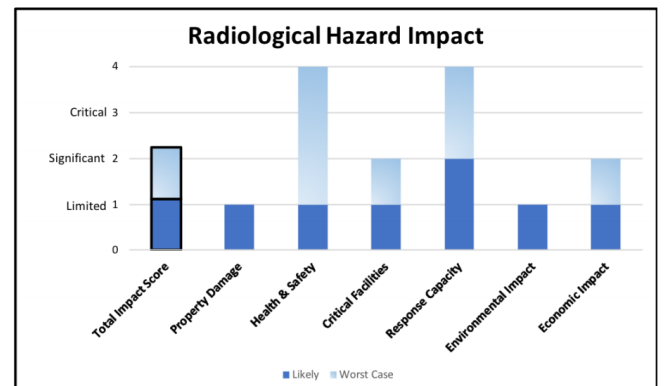
There is an expected 1-10% Chance of Annual Occurrence of a Radiological Hazard in Howard County. In the most likely Radiological scenario, the Total Impact is considered Limited. In the worst-case scenario, the Total Impact is considered Significant-Critical.

## DID YOU KNOW?

- REDs have extremely localized effects and may only impact those who are in physical contact or extremely close proximity to the device.
- The area affected by a RDD explosion may range from less than a city block to several square miles.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION:

- [Howard County Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment](#)
- [U.S. Department of Homeland Security](#)
- [Ready.gov](#)
- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)



Radiological Hazard Risk Profile				
	Risk Assessment Category	Likely Hazard Scenario	Worst-Case Hazard Scenario	Weight
LIKELIHOOD	Likelihood	1.8 Unlikely-Infrequent		50%
	Impact	1.1 Limited	2.25 Significant-Critical	40%
CONSEQUENCE	Warning Time	4 Short	4 Short	5%
	Duration	2 Moderate	3 Long	5%
TOTAL RISK SCORE		1.6	2.1	

